



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

1 SEPTEMBER 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Newport Beach – Female Deputy DA Found Beaten After Gang Attack

(U) A deputy district attorney was the victim of a gang attack in Orange County in an apparent attempt to prevent her from giving closing arguments in a gang murder trial. The woman, whose name has been withheld, stumbled into a Newport Beach gym early yesterday morning after the assault. Newport Beach police say the woman was not sexually assaulted or robbed.

SOURCE: 1 September 2017, [Fox News](#)

(U) San Diego – Eight Plead Guilty in Crips-Related Racketeering Conspiracy Case

(U) Seven alleged gang members and associates of the Westside Crips and one hotel manager of two national brand hotels in Oceanside entered guilty pleas in federal court yesterday, admitting to their participation in a racketeering conspiracy involving narcotics trafficking, prostitution of women and other crimes. The defendants were charged with racketeering conspiracy—typically filed in cases of organized crime—due to the group's functioning as a criminal enterprise.

SOURCE: 31 August 2017, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – ISIS Leader Al-Baghdadi is Likely Still Alive, Says US Commander

(U) Washington – Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is probably still alive, according to General Stephen Townsend—the commander of the US-led coalition in Iraq and Syria. Multiple sources including the Russian government and human rights watchdog group Syrian Observatory for Human Rights have reported the death of the ISIS leader. However, US officials never confirmed the reports. During a televised press briefing at the Pentagon yesterday, Gen. Townsend surmised al-Baghdadi being “somewhere in the Middle Euphrates River Valley.”

SOURCE: 31 August 2017, [The Military Times](#)

(U) New York – US Charges Five with Hiding Meth in 1,300 pounds of Wax Candles

(U) New York City – US prosecutors in New York said they have uncovered a new means to conceal methamphetamine, announcing criminal charges on 30 August against five people they say conspired to hide the drug in more than 1,300 pounds of wax candles. New York City police and Drug Enforcement Administration agents found 27 cardboard boxes containing the candles in a New Jersey warehouse. A field test of one candle revealed a “detectable amount” of methamphetamine, according to the prosecutors.

SOURCE: 30 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) China – Chinese Cyber Spies Broaden Attack in Vietnam

(U) Beijing – Cyber spies working for or on behalf of China's government have broadened attacks against official and corporate targets in Vietnam at a time of raised tension over the South China Sea according to cybersecurity company FireEye. FireEye said the attacks in Vietnam involved sending users

documents in Vietnamese which appeared to be requests for financial information. A broad range of companies appeared to have been targeted, including financial institutions, the company said without giving specific details. The malware was delivered whenever a recipient opened the files, infecting the computer and sending back information to the cyber spies, potentially allowing them into the computer network.

SOURCE: 31 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Finland – Government to Review Terrorism Laws and Increase Security Funding

(U) Helsinki – Finland plans to review terrorism laws and provide extra funding for security after two women were killed in a knife attack this month. Eight people were wounded in the attack on 18 August in the southwestern city of Turku. The main suspect, a 22-year-old Moroccan asylum seeker, has told a court he was responsible for the attack but denied his motive was terrorism. The government agreed to provide an additional 12 million euros to the police and Security Intelligence Service. The government said it would ask security officers to conduct threat assessments of all asylum seekers whose applications are turned down and to detain them if necessary.

SOURCE: 31 August 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) Russia – Russian Security Agency Detains Two in ISIS Attack Plot

(U) Moscow – The Federal Security Service (FSB) has detained two suspects from ex-Soviet Central Asia accused of plotting attacks on civilians in Moscow on behalf of ISIS. The FSB said the suspects were preparing to launch the attacks today, the beginning of the school year in Russia. The agency said a powerful homemade explosive device was found at the apartment of one of the suspects, who authorities believe was planning to carry out a suicide bombing. The other suspect was preparing to attack civilians with an axe and had put out a video statement pledging adherence to ISIS. That suspect had contacted ISIS recruiters and received instructions from the group.

SOURCE: 31 August 2017, [Associated Press](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) District of Columbia – US Moves to Build Border Wall Prototypes in San Diego

(U) Washington – The Department of Homeland Security took the first step yesterday toward building a barrier on the border with Mexico, as officials announced that they had awarded contracts to build several prototypes of a concrete wall. Four companies will build the prototypes in the San Diego region, according to US Customs and Border Protection officials. DHS officials said the prototypes would be about 30 feet high and added to the existing walls in the San Diego area, allowing the agency to evaluate which barriers are most effective in giving Border Patrol agents time to respond to reports of illegal drugs and human smuggling.

SOURCE: 31 August 2017, [New York Times](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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